

IN RE: Application of South Carolina Electric & Gas) ORDER EXTENDING
Company for Adjustments in the Company's) ISSUANCE DATE OF
Natural Gas Rate Schedules and Tariffs) ORDER

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for consideration of an extra five (5) days to issue the Order in the present proceeding regarding South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's (SCE&G or the Company) application for adjustments of its rates and charges for natural gas service, for new depreciation rates and changes in its terms and conditions of service. S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-5-240(C) (Supp. 2004) requires this Commission to rule and issue its order approving or disapproving any rate changes in full or in part within six months after a rate change request is filed. S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-5-240(D) (Supp. 2004), however, states that should the Commission determine that it cannot, due to circumstances reasonably beyond its control, issue such order within the six-month period prescribed by this section, the Commission may, by order, extend the six-month period for an additional five days. In the present case, we believe that such circumstances exist, and we hereby order an extension of the issuance date of the final order in this case from October 26, 2005 to October 31, 2005.

The “circumstances reasonably beyond our control” are clear in this matter. Because of the Commission’s need to carefully consider the proposed settlement in this gas case and the need to carefully craft the order in this matter, the October 26, 2005 issuance date does not give the Commission or the Staff sufficient time to prepare and review the order regarding this docket. The additional five days allows for proper preparation and a full review of all aspects of the case and the order in this very complex gas matter. Accordingly, we make the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The matter under consideration is an additional five (5) days to issue the final order in this docket as allowed by S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-5-240(D) (Supp. 2004).
2. The actual extension would be from October 26, 2005 to October 31, 2005.
3. There are clearly “circumstances beyond our control” existing in this instance that warrant the extension for issuance of the order in this docket.
4. Due to this Commission’s need to carefully consider the proposed settlement and the need to carefully craft the order in this case, the original order issuance date of October 26, 2005, does not allow sufficient time for preparation of the order and proper review of the order by Staff and Commissioners.
5. The time for issuance of the order in this case should be extended to October 31, 2005.

ORDER

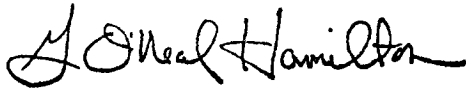
It is therefore ordered that the time for issuance of the final order in this docket shall be extended to October 31, 2005. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)